

Comprehensive Situation Report No. 7
Devils Lake Flood 1995
Division of Emergency Management
and
State Water Commission
Incident No. 95-04
Date: April 17, 1995 Time: 5:00 p.m.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND

ATTENTION: Appropriate State and Local Agencies

1. **NATURE OF DISASTER**: Potential flooding in 1995, based on expected 1434.0 or greater mean sea level (msl) for Devils Lake.
2. **DEATH AND INJURIES**: One death was reported in Cavalier County when an elderly gentleman drove around a barricade southwest of Langdon.
3. **DAMAGE**: The water level of Devils Lake is 1432.77 msl as of April 17, 1995. At present, the lake is rising approximately two-thirds of an inch a day.

Township officials are reporting soft and dangerous road conditions exist on county and township roads throughout Benson, Nelson, and Ramsey Counties.

Benson County: One residence is now isolated in the Leeds area.

Nelson County: ND #1 north of Lakota has water up to the edge of the road. County Road #1 has water over the road. A family is isolated as is their family business, a grain cleaning business.

There have been approximately 10 families that have reported sewer problems. A Canadian Pacific rail car tipped because of a soft railroad bed. The water is up to the railroad tracks in some areas of Nelson County.

Ramsey County: Ramsey County Highway No. 3, a hard surfaced road, located north of Rohrville Elevator, washed out on April 3, 1995.

In the village of Southam, some private buildings are surrounded by water. The grain elevator road and one home are at risk.

The city of Lawton is experiencing basement seepage and city street problems. At present, the water is less than one foot from going over an emergency levee installed in 1993, which protects the southern part of the city. ND #1 near Lawton is threatened.

4. **RESOURCES COMMITTED:**

Local: No change from previous reports.

State: No change from previous reports.

Federal: No change from previous reports.

5. **VOLUNTEER ACTIONS:** No change from previous reports.

6. **MAJOR ACTIONS:**

Local:

The county road departments are barricading roads which have washed out or are inundated with flood waters. Ramsey and Nelson Counties have been placing signs at road closures and are having problems obtaining signs from vendors. Since the last report, the following counties have declared an emergency or disaster: Barnes, Bottineau, Griggs, Nelson, Richland, Sheridan, Steele, and Walsh. The total is now 17 county, three city, and one tribal council declarations.

Benson:

Benson County is repairing roads on an emergency basis.

Nelson:

Due to the number of roads that have had to be blocked off, maps with the road closures have been sent to each fire and ambulance department throughout the county.

County officials have dispersed 50 Red Cross cleanup kits to individuals with water in their basements.

Basement seepage is an increasing problem as the temperatures increase.

Ramsey:

The Ramsey County Water Board is investigating individuals pumping water from the land onto other areas.

Ramsey County is constructing a bridge and control structure for water movements from Lake Irvine to Mauvais Coulee.

The Ramsey County Utilities Company raised three more lift stations. Two families have reported failed septic systems.

Ramsey County Emergency Management is providing maps for public safety personnel of road closures and will continue to update these maps.

State:

The Governor has scheduled a public meeting to review flood issues in Devils Lake on April 18.

The State Water Commission is monitoring the flows of water into Devils Lake.

State Parks and Recreation has closed the boat launching facilities at the Narrows.

The Department of Transportation is finalizing plans for raising the grade on ND 20 near Camp Grafton, and ND 19 at Six Mile Bay. DOT has been pumping water on US #2 east of Penn. State roads in other areas are also being studied for grade raises.

185,000 COE sandbags are being stored at Camp Grafton. The National Guard is constructing a dike to protect the Officer's Dining Facility at Camp Grafton. Present plans are to build the dike to 1438 msl. The Guard plans to let bids for rip-rapping the sewage lagoon at Camp Grafton.

Tribal Council officials at Fort Totten conducted an information gathering and planning meeting regarding flood preparedness actions on April 12, 1995. State, local, and federal officials participated.

State agencies continue to maintain activities at the State Flood Coordination Center at Camp Grafton.

Federal:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers assisted the city of Minnewaukan officials by obtaining a 12 inch pump with hose to drain the third cell of the Minnewaukan lagoon. Also, the Corps has initiated emergency actions necessary to protect the lagoon in Minnewaukan due to lake raises that were causing damage which could cause the lagoon to fail. They are protecting the base on the east and north side of the lagoon to 1436.00 feet msl. The project is 70% complete.

7. **ASSISTANCE NEEDED:** None at this time.
8. **OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE:** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
9. **OTHER INFORMATION:** The waterways in the Devils Lake basin are all running. However, ice on the lakes remains. The State Water Commission has recently gathered additional data from within the Devils Lake basin. Based on current conditions, including the volume of water en route through the upper chain of lakes, Water Commission staff expect Devils Lake to rise to at least an elevation of 1434 msl. With above normal precipitation during the next sixty days, they feel Devils Lake could rise to an elevation of 1435 msl. Lake crests are expected in June.

SIGNED _____
Douglas C. Friez, Director
ND Division of Emergency Management
328-3300

David Sprynczynatyk, Secretary
State Water Commission
328-2750